

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA);
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL
ACT FOR 1976

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON UNDER SECY HABIB
JULY 8 TO REPORT GROWING TURKISH CONCERN OVER DELAY IN
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON TURKISH-US DEFENSE COOPERATION
AGREEMENT (DCA). TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD HOPED FOR CONGRES-
SIONAL MOVEMENT EARLY THIS SUMMER. PUBLIC AND POLITICAL
OPPOSITION IN TURKEY WERE BEGINNING TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT
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FOR CONTINUING TO LEAVE TURKEY'S SECURITY IN HANDS OF US

CONGRESS. TURKS IN SUM WERE BECOMING JITTERY.

2. HABIB EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF TURKISH CONCERNS AND REAFFIRMED INTENTION OF ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MOVE CONGRESS TO EARLY ACTION ON THE DCA. HABIB NOTED THAT WHILE WE COULD NOT CONTROL EVENTS ON THE HILL, WE HOPE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS WILL START BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN CONVENTIONS. HABIB WARNED THAT MUCH DEPENDED ON THE ABSENCE OF INCIDENTS WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS WITH CONGRESS. ESENBEL REPLIED THAT HE ASSUMED HABIB WAS REFERRING TO THE AEGEAN. HE

STATED THAT "THE GREEKS MAKE THE USUAL NOISES EVERY YEAR" ABOUT MILITARY EXERCISES, BUT HE ANTICIPATED NO INCIDENTS THAT WOULD MAR PROSPECTS FOR THE DCA. HABIB EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ESENBEL'S ASSURANCES AND PLEDGED HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE EFFORT TO MOVE THE DCA EXPEDITIOUSLY THROUGH CONGRESS.

3. ESENBEL ALSO RAISED THE REQUIREMENT FOR PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION(S) PRIOR TO ANY FMS SALES TO TURKEY UNDER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION FOR 1976. HE NOTED THAT TIME WAS SHORT AND THAT HIS MILITARY ATTACHE HAD MENTIONED JULY 12 AS A DEADLINE. HABIB SAID THAT WE WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SEEKING THE QUICKEST MEANS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION AND THAT WE WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THE TURKS, KEEPING ALL DEADLINES IN MIND.

4. FYI. THE JULY 12 DEADLINE MENTIONED BY ESENBEL IS AN AGREED SUSPENSE DATE BY WHICH THE TURKS PLAN TO RESPOND TO DOD'S REQUEST FOR A DETAILED SHOPPING LIST OF FMS CASES FOR THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER. A PACKAGE OF FMS CASES WILL THEN BE PREPARED, TOTALING \$125 MILLION, TO ALLOW COVERAGE BY SINGLE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION. KISSINGER

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